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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/082,248	02/26/2002	David D. Rowley	062070-0311777	1772

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EXAMINER

SHINGLES, KRISTIE D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2141

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/082,248

Applicant(s)

ROWLEY ET AL.

Examiner

KRISTIE D. SHINGLES

Art Unit

2141

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 27-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 27-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/2008
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Per Applicant's Request for Continued Examination

Claims 1-26 have been cancelled.
Claims 27, 29, 32, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42 and 43 have been amended.
Claim 46 has been newly added.

Claims 27-46 are pending examination.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

I. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/10/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

II. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 27, 32, 36, 42 and 46 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

III. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

IV. Claims 27, 29-40 and 42-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Rowley et al* (US 6,941,105) in view of Official Notice, hence what is well-known in the art.

a. **Per claims 27, 36 and 42** (differ only by statutory subject matter), *Rowley et al* teach a computer implemented method for enabling a plurality of users to remotely perform one or more respective exercises using the plurality of respective client systems, the method comprising:

- storing in a course database course information including a list of exercises, and for a given exercise one or more virtual machines associated with the exercise (*Abstract, col.1 line 47-col.2 line 20, col.4 lines 30-35—database stores course information with lists of exercises and associated virtual machine*);
- receiving a request to connect to a remote server from at least one user (*Abstract, col.2 lines 61-65*);
- accessing the course database to determine one or more courses associated with the user (*col.2 lines 65-67*);
- transmitting a list of courses associated with the user to the respective client system associated with the user (*col.2 line 67-col.3 line 5, col.6 lines 35-52*);
- receiving a selection of at least one of the courses in the course list from the user (*col.2 line 41, col.3 lines 1-2*);
- accessing the course database to determine the one or more exercises associated with the selected course (*col.3 lines 3-5, col.6 lines 35-41*);
- transmitting a list of exercises, associated with the selected course to the respective client system associated with the user (*col.6 lines 40-41 and 59-67*);
- receiving a selection of at least one of the exercises in the transmitted exercise list from the user (*Abstract, col.3 lines 1-13*);

- accessing the course database to determine at least one virtual machine associated with the selected exercise (*Abstract, col.1 line 63-col.2 line 4*);
- launching the virtual machine associated with the selected exercise, wherein the launched virtual machine generates a user interface for performing the selected exercise (*Abstract, col.1 lines 49-62*); and
- transmitting a view of the user interface to the respective client system associated with the user, wherein the user performs the selected exercise by remotely interacting with the virtual machine via the view of the user interface (*Abstract, col.5 line 52-col.6 line 31, col.6 line 59-col.7 line 11, col.7 lines 16-20*).

Although *Rowley et al* fail to explicitly teach the accessing, transmitting, receiving and launching features are made remotely, it is well-known and obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that remote access is permitted since the purpose of the IT classroom is to provide remote access to the educational course material. The mere fact that the course material is stored onto a server/virtual machine and accessed by the user at a another machine that loads the course data from the server/virtual machine (col.5 lines 16-65), implies that the loading and accessing of the course data is done "remotely".

b. **Claim 32** contains limitations that are substantially similar to claims 27, 36 and 42 and are therefore rejected under the same basis.

c. **Per claim 29**, *Rowley et al* in view of the Official Notice, teach the method of claim 27, further comprising: transmitting, by a remote system, a page to the client system, the page including at least one selectable user interface element associated with the launched virtual machine; and receiving a selection of the at least one user interface element from the user (*Abstract, col.5 line 52-col.6 line 31, col.6 line 59-col.7 line 11, col.7 lines 16-20*).

d. **Claims 33, 39 and 43** are substantially similar to claim 29 and are therefore rejected under the same basis.

e. **Per claim 30**, *Rowley et al* in view of the Official Notice teach the method of claim 29, further comprising generating the view of the user interface in response to receiving the selection of the user interface element (*Abstract, col.5 line 52-col.6 line 31, col.6 line 59-col.7 line 11, col.7 lines 16-2*).

f. **Claims 34 and 44** are substantially similar to claim 30 and are therefore rejected under the same basis

g. **Per claim 31**, *Rowley et al* in view of the Official Notice teach the method of claim 27, further comprising launching a remote display server to handle a session with a viewer application at the client system, the viewer application displaying the view of the user interface to the user, the remote display server refreshing the view in response to the user interacting with the view of the user interface during the session (*col.4 line 5-col.5 line 15*).

h. **Claims 35 and 45** are substantially equivalent to claim 31 and are therefore rejected under the same basis.

i. **Per claim 37**, *Rowley et al* in view of the Official Notice teach the system of claim 36, wherein the virtual machine launcher runs on the selected computer system onto which the selected course is installed (*col.5 line 43-col.6 line 48*).

j. **Per claim 38**, *Rowley et al* in view of the Official Notice teach the system of claim 36, wherein the system is further operable to access the course database to determine the virtual machine associated with the selected course (*col.5 lines 26-40, col.6 lines 1-18*).

k. **Claim 40** is substantially similar to claims 30 and 31 and is therefore rejected under the same basis.

V. **Claims 28, 41 and 46** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Rowley et al* (US 6,941,105) and the Official Notice, in view of *Johnston et al* (US 2002/0103882).

1. **Per claim 28**, *Rowley et al* in view of the Official Notice teach the method of claim 27, as applied above, and further teaches a client system that displays the course and exercise information transmitted from the exercise loader module (*col.1 lines 49-62, col.3 lines 1-16*), yet fail to explicitly teach wherein the client system comprises a web browser and a viewer application for displaying the view of the user interface. However, *Johnston et al* teach that the client system comprises a web browser for interfacing with the virtual machines (*page 5 paragraph 0056*). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of *Rowley et al* and *Johnston et al* for the purpose of providing a client system with a web browser and viewer for interfacing with the virtual machines, because doing so gives the user an interactive communication medium for accessing exercises in one or more simultaneous execution environments over the Internet thus allowing a browser/interface for receiving the users' input in the virtual environment.

m. **Per claim 41**, *Rowley et al* in view of the Official Notice teach the system of claim 36, as applied above, and further teaches a virtual machine launcher configured to register virtual machines with identifiers and data associating the virtual machine with the course exercises (*col.4 lines 55-63*); yet *Rowley et al* fail to explicitly teach the configuration information including a port number for the remote display server to accept session connections. However *Johnston et al* further teach wherein the configuration information including a unique identifier for the virtual machine launcher and a port number for the remote display server to accept session connections, the course information including a list of courses associated with the virtual machine launcher (*page 4 paragraphs 0044-0049, page 5 paragraph 0064, page 6 paragraphs 0067 and 0070-0073*). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of *Rowley et al* and *Johnston et al* for the purpose of providing configuration information that registers the identifier, port number and courses associated with the virtual machines, in order to maintain data specific to each virtual machine.

n. **Claim 46** is substantially equivalent to claim 41 and is therefore rejected under the same basis.

Conclusion

VI. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure: Lee et al (6064856), Slattery et al (6514085), Denious et al (6622003), Allison

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(6546230), Wessner et al (7369808), Ziv-el et al (6898411), Helmick et al (6678500), Strub et al (6652287), Tanaka et al (5553291).

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the reference(s) applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the Applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the cited passages as taught by the prior art or relied upon by the examiner. Should Applicant amend the claims of the claimed invention, it is respectfully requested that Applicant clearly indicate the portion(s) of Applicant's specification that support the amended claim language for ascertaining the metes and bounds of Applicant's claimed invention.

VII. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kristie D. Shingles whose telephone number is 571-272-3888. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday 8:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kristie D. Shingles
Examiner
Art Unit 2141

/KDS/

/William C. Vaughn, Jr./

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2144